

WEEK IN BRUSSELS

Week ending Friday 25 April

Parliament adopts report on maximum weights and dimensions of road vehicles

The European Parliament has adopted a report by MEP Jörg Leichtfried (S&D, Austria) on the revision of the Council Directive 96/53/EC to set new rules for the maximum weights and dimensions of road vehicles in the EU. The key details of the report are:

- Under the adopted new rules, truck cabins should make it easier for drivers to spot pedestrians and cyclists.
- Also, truck cabins can be made longer in order to fit alternative-fuel engines.
- Trucks and busses with low-carbon alternatives could exceed the current maximum weight by up to one tonne, depending on the weight of the alternative system.
- Trucks for use in combined road-rail or road-ship transport operations can be made 15 cm longer, to make it easier to load standard 45-foot containers.
- The Parliament decided not to amend the current rules on the cross border operation of longer vehicles and asked the Commission to report on the subject by 2016.

The legislation still needs to be adopted by Council. The Greek Presidency aims to have a decision on this text in June 2014. If the legislation is adopted by 2015, the new trucks could be expected to be seen on the roads by 2018-2020.

(Source: European Commission)

http://ec.europa.eu/transport/modes/road/weights-and-dimensions_en.htm

Parliament endorses agreement on eCall

The European Parliament in Plenary has endorsed an agreement reached between the Council and the European Parliament on a Decision on the deployment of an EU-wide eCall system. The key details of the agreement are:

- Member states must have the infrastructure in place to handle eCalls at least 6 months before the type-approval requirements for the corresponding in-vehicle device start to apply, and in any case no later than 1 October 2017.
- The calls will be handled free of charge by a public authority or a private organisation recognised by the member state. Member states have the right to organise its emergency services in the way most cost effective and appropriate to its needs.
- Data transmitted via the eCall service are used exclusively for the objectives of the eCall decision.
- Before the launch of the new system, citizens will be informed how to use the system, how to avoid false alarms and how the data involved are protected.

To enter into force, the agreement on the Decision must still be formally approved by the Council which is expected to take place in the coming weeks.

Alongside this proposal, a proposal for a Regulation on the type-approval requirements for the deployment of the eCall in-vehicle system is being worked on by the Council and the Parliament, in order to reach an agreement.

(Source: European Commission)

<http://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/ecall-time-saved-lives-saved>

Parliament adopts agreement on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure

The European Parliament has adopted new EU rules on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure. The Committee on Transport and Tourism endorsed the agreement reached between the Council and the European Parliament on 1 April 2014. The key details of the report are:

- Member states are required to put in place recharging stations for electric vehicles by 2020, but also fuel stations for cars driving on compressed natural gas.
- National governments have to develop the necessary fuel tanks for maritime vessels that will

ensure they can travel between ports on liquefied natural gas.

- Member states will draft national plans and targets and implement them by 2020.
- The rules call for the creation of a common plug for recharging electric vehicles.
- The European Commission will coordinate and review the national plans.

The minimum infrastructure targets and deadlines detailed in the report are:

- Enough recharge points for electric cars should be installed by the end of 2020;
- Shore-side electricity supply is to be installed in ports of the Trans-European Transport (TEN-T) Core Network by the end of 2025;
- Member States that opt to include hydrogen refuelling in their plans should ensure that enough stations are available by 2025;
- Liquefied natural gas-powered ships should be able to move between the TEN-T Core Network maritime ports by 2025 and between the inland ports by 2030;
- LNG heavy-duty motor vehicles should be able to move at least along the existing TEN-T Core Network by 2025;
- Compressed natural gas motor vehicles should be able to circulate in agglomerations by 2020 and at least along the existing TEN-T Core Network by 2025.

The new rules still need to be adopted by Council later this year.

(Source: European Parliament)

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2013/0012\(COD\)&l=en](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/oeil/popups/ficheprocedure.do?reference=2013/0012(COD)&l=en)

Parliament refers Report on the reregistration of motor vehicles back to Committee

The European Parliament plenary session has referred draft rules, aimed at simplifying the re-registering of cars or motorbikes when the owner moves to a new EU country, back to the Internal Market and Consumer Protection (IMCO) Committee for further discussion. Rapporteur Toine Manders (ALDE, Netherlands) asked the Parliament to make this decision due to the lack of agreement in the Council of Ministers meaning a deal between Council and Parliament was far from being reached. The discussion and vote on the Committee Report will now take place in the next legislative term with a new set of MEPs in the IMCO Committee. The Council must

also reach a common position before negotiations can begin between Parliament and Member States.

(Source: IMCO Committee)

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/imco/home.html>



Global passenger vehicle demand up 6.1% in the first quarter over the previous year

Based on POLK data, which are preliminary in some cases, passenger vehicle registrations in March were up 7.6%. With strong growth in the first two months of the year, global new registrations are now up 6.1%, 1.2 million units, for the first quarter of 2014.

(Source: SMMT)

<http://www.smmt.co.uk/2014/04/european-global-passenger-vehicle-demand-6-1-first-quarter-previous-year/>

Week ahead

European Commission

No relevant activity

Council of Ministers

No relevant activity

European Parliament

The parliament is no longer sitting due to the upcoming European elections. The UK elections for the European Parliament will take place on 22 May.